

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A nonwoven fabric-laminate comprising:

(A) a rigid layer of an entanglement-based nonwoven fabric; and

(B) a bulky layer of a bulky nonwoven fabric having an apparent density lower than that of said rigid layer,
wherein

(i) the entanglement-based nonwoven fabric comprises a merely-entangled nonwoven fabric fused with thermally-fusible fibers and/or adhered with a binder,

(ii) the average of the longitudinal tensile strength and the transverse tensile strength of the merely-entangled nonwoven fabric is not less than 150 N/50 mm width,

(iii) the average of the longitudinal tensile strength and the transverse tensile strength of the entanglement-based nonwoven fabric is higher than that of the merely-entangled nonwoven fabric; and

(iv) ~~the thickness of the rigid layer is 0.6 to 2 mm~~ difference between the apparent density of said rigid layer and the apparent density of said bulky layer is 0.14 g/cm³ or less.

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein an apparent density of said rigid layer is less than 0.15 g/cm³.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of said rigid layer is 0.8 mm or more ~~to 2 mm~~.

Claims 4-5 (Canceled)

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein said bulky layer contains thermally-fusible fibers, and said bulky nonwoven fabric in said bulky layer is fused with said thermally-fusible fibers.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein said rigid layer and/or said bulky layer contain profile fibers and/or hollow fibers.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein substantially all constituent fibers of said rigid layer are polyester fibers, and substantially all constituent fibers of said bulky layer are polyester fibers.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, further comprising a laminated surface layer.

Claim 10 (Previously Presented): An automotive internal trim panel into which the nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1 is shaped.

Claim 11 (Previously Presented): An automotive internal trim panel into which the nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 2 is shaped.

Claim 21 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 19, wherein a thickness of said rigid layer is 0.8 mm to 1 mm.

Claim 22 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 19, wherein a difference between the apparent density of said rigid layer and the apparent density of said bulky layer is not more than 0.14 g/cm^3 .

Claim 23 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 19, wherein said bulky layer contains thermally-fusible fibers, and said bulky nonwoven fabric in said bulky layer is fused with said thermally-fusible fibers.

Claim 24 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 19, wherein said rigid layer and/or said bulky layer contain profile fibers and/or hollow fibers.

Claim 25 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 19, wherein substantially all constituent fibers of said rigid layer are polyester fibers, and substantially all constituent fibers of said bulky layer are polyester fibers.

Claim 26 (Previously Presented): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 19, further comprising a laminated surface layer.

Claim 27 (Previously Presented): An automotive internal trim panel into which the nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 19 is shaped.

Claim 28 (New): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of said rigid layer is 0.6 to 2 mm.

Claim 29 (New): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of said rigid layer is 0.8 to 2 mm.

Claim 30 (New): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 1, wherein the average of the longitudinal tensile strength and the transverse tensile strength of the merely-entangled nonwoven fabric is not less than 160 N/50 mm width, the area density of the merely-entangled nonwoven fabric is 40 to 120 g/cm², and the thickness of the merely-entangled nonwoven fabric is 0.8 mm or more.

Claim 31 (New): The nonwoven fabric-laminate according to claim 30, wherein the merely-entangled nonwoven fabric is prepared by a fluid jet entangling method.